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March 8, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

I am deeply concerned about new attempts by the Castro regime to promote its propaganda by dispatching Adriana Perez to Geneva to advocate for Cuban spies convicted in U.S. courts. Ms. Perez is the wife of Cuban spy Gerardo Hernandez who has been convicted of 13 counts including conspiracy to murder. Even more problematic are reports that Ms. Perez reportedly is seeking to use the United Nations in an attempt to force the U.S. to ignore its security and grant visas to convicted Cuban spies and their spouses. The U.S. should not only deny such visas but directly challenge the Cuban regime's efforts to discredit the U.S.

This week, media reports have indicated that Ms. Perez met with Navi Pillay, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, to ask for assistance to acquire a visa to come to the United States to visit her husband. In addition, Ms. Perez asked for help for Rene Gonzalez, convicted of both conspiring for and acting as an agent of the Cuban regime, and who has petitioned a federal judge in Miami seeking permission to return to Cuba for two weeks.

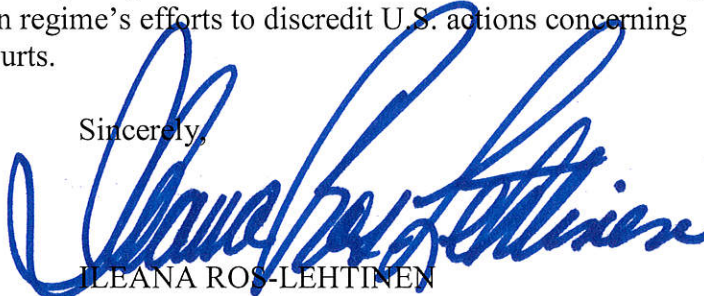
Ms. Perez' lobbying efforts on behalf of spies who were convicted under due process in U.S. federal courts cannot go unchallenged. Ms. Perez is seeking to equate the actions and policies of the U.S.—a free, democratic nation with an independent judiciary and which upholds the rights of its citizens—with those of the brutal, repressive Cuban dictatorship. The U.S. must not enable such propaganda by capitulating to Ms. Perez' requests, even if presented via U.N. third parties.

It is disappointing that the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights would meet with a pawn of the Castro dictatorship. Commissioner Pillay repeatedly and publicly criticized democratic nations, including the U.S. for not participating in Durban II, which was used to criticize our ally Israel and restrict fundamental freedoms. By contrast, Commissioner Pillay, as well as the Human Rights Council, have failed to take strong action against the Cuban regime which systematically violates the human rights of its people.

The United States must oppose these aggressive tactics and condemn the Castro regime in all bilateral and multilateral discussions on human rights. The actions against the United States Government by the individuals for whom Ms. Perez is advocating posed a threat to U.S. national security, our interests, and our citizens. Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Gonzalez were found by U.S. courts to be among those responsible for the 1996 Brothers to the Rescue shootdown which resulted in the murder of three American citizens and one U.S. resident-- Carlos Costa, Armando Alejandro, Mario de la Peña, and Pablo Morales.

To reiterate, the U.S. should not only deny the visas for which Ms. Perez is advocating but should directly challenge the Cuban regime's efforts to discredit U.S. actions concerning these Cuban spies convicted in U.S. courts.

Sincerely,



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Chairman